

# FOCUS

## A Look at the Maricopa County Juvenile Court



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**Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County**

*Fall 2001 Edition*

## Kids, families forever united

It wasn't easy to notice with so many worldwide events taking center stage.

However, while the United States Armed Forces fought for justice thousands of miles away and while the world champion Diamondbacks charged to victory, 49 children were assimilated into 38 families at the Second Annual Celebrate Adoption.

"The smiles on the faces of the children with their new families are a wonderful reminder of why it is important to help them achieve permanency," said Presiding Juvenile Court



Judge Linda Scott. "The cooperation and collaboration between attorneys, adoption agencies, Department of Economic Security and the Juvenile Court to bring life to

Celebrate Adoption 2001 was remarkable."

Information tables, education sessions, entertain-

ment for children, and open adoption hearings were all part of the event to celebrate and promote adoptions during national adoption month in November.

Children who visited Superior Court enjoyed face painting, arts and crafts, science demonstrations and visits from Santa, Scooby Doo, Winnie the Pooh and Tigger.

While the general public was fixated on the final games of the World Series, the day couldn't have been better for the new families.

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## New Juvenile Court facilities on the rise

Outfitted with hats and shovels, court and county officials recently took the voter-approved expansion of Juvenile Court Facilities out of the design phase into the construction phase.

A new courthouse, expanded detention facilities, a

residential treatment facility and a parking garage at the Juvenile Court Center Durango facility, 3125 W. Durango is underway.

Similarly, detention expansion and court renovation projects recently broke ground as well at the Juvenile Court Center Southeast Fa-

cility in Mesa.

"We generally run at or over capacity in our detention centers," Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Linda Scott said. "This facility will provide safe, secure places for juveniles who have violated the laws of this community."

The two-story, 12-courtroom facility at Durango is being built

west of the current "round" courthouse and will encompass office space for court administration, clerk of the court, county attorney, public defender, and juvenile probation. The building will also include a conference center.

A 1000-space parking garage, scheduled for

**Continued on page 3**



The new Juvenile Court Center Courthouse at Durango

# New Judges take the Juvenile Court bench

After months of change, the Juvenile Court bench is settling in.

With longtime Juvenile Court Judge Rebecca Albrecht's departure to the Superior Court Civil Division in downtown Phoenix, and the appointment of three new judges, The changes are complete.

Since March, the bench has introduced a new presiding judge and changed judges in three Juvenile Court courtrooms.

One of the newest additions, Judge Theresa Sanders, is a familiar face to Juvenile Court, having spent seven months as a Juvenile Court Commissioner at the Mesa facility in

1999. It was her first assignment as a commissioner. After serving assignments in the Criminal and Family Court Departments, she returned to the Juvenile Court Durango facility two months prior to her appointment in September.

"I am very pleased to have Judge Sanders returning to Juvenile Court because of her prior outstanding service with us as a commissioner," said Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Linda Scott.

Judge Sanders said that of all her assignments as a commissioner, she enjoyed the Juvenile division the best.

"I wish I had been as-

signed to Juvenile Court longer as a commissioner," she said. "I think the work we do here is very worthwhile."

Judge Sanders is continuing her assignment at Durango.

Prior to her career as a Superior Court Judicial Officer, Judge Sanders spent 13 years in the criminal trial division of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, including the gang and repeat offender and major felony bureaus.

After three years as the

ity.

During his investiture ceremony, Judge Klein said of his appointment:

"I have long felt that the judiciary is the noblest way an attorney can serve the public. I will work day and night to be the best judge I can be."

Judge Klein also expressed his gratitude for the patience and graciousness of his new Juvenile Court colleagues for helping him to adjust to a Juvenile Court calendar. He received his undergraduate degree in journalism

from the University of California at Berkeley and his law degree in 1977 from Indiana University in Bloomington. After law school,

Judge Klein's career began at the law firm of Levy, Mason, Spector & Sherwood in Arizona. Four years later, Judge Klein was a partner in the firm.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Klein was a managing partner, a position he held since 1993.

Before her appointment, Judge Stephens supervised the Criminal Fraud Section of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. She initially joined the AG's Office in 1980, immediately following her admittance to the Arizona State Bar.

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**Hon. Rebecca Albrecht  
Judge Rotates to Civil**

After three years on the Juvenile Court Bench, Judge Rebecca Albrecht recently vacated her chambers at the Southeast Mesa Facility for new digs in the Superior Court Civil Division in downtown Phoenix.

Judge Albrecht, who served three years as a Juvenile Court commissioner prior to being appointed a judge in 1985, admitted she will miss Juvenile Court and praised court staff for their efforts in working with Maricopa County juveniles in need.

"We have been privileged to serve with many dedicated and caring people," Judge Albrecht said. "I will miss that caring attitude."

She added that the commitment of Juvenile Court staff members to children and their profession is "unmatched in any area of the law or courts."

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**Hon. Teresa Sanders**



**Hon. Andrew Klein**



**Hon. Sherry Stephens**

bureau chief of the criminal trial division, she was appointed a commissioner assigned to Juvenile Court. Judge Sanders began her legal career in Grand Junction Colorado, where she was in private practice handling a variety of matters, including cases in juvenile law matters. She received a bachelor's degree in marketing from Arizona State University, where she also received her law degree in 1983.

Two additional new jurists, Judges Andrew Klein and Sherry Stephens, both appointed to the bench in July 2001, have been assigned to the Southeast facil-



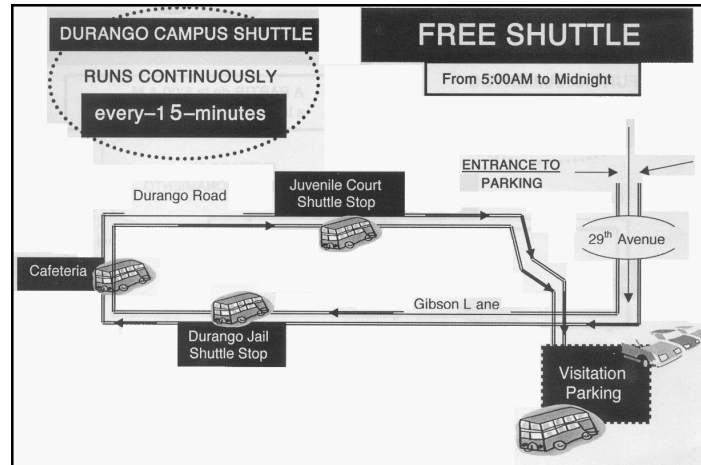
# Construction at Durango Facility brings parking woes

With the construction of more comfortable facilities at the Durango Juvenile Court Facility come some temporary inconveniences.

Parking is high on the list.

Due to the construction of the new courthouse and parking structure at the Durango facility, a large portion of the west parking lot is fenced off, leaving few parking spots for Court Center staff, customers and visitors.

To alleviate the parking shortfall, a parking lot east of



the Maricopa County Towers Jail has been cleared for Juvenile Court use, and a

shuttle bus service is now in place to assist customers and staff in getting to the court

center. The shuttle is handicapped-accessible and has a capacity for 25 people. It runs every 15 minutes to and from the courthouse between 5:30 a.m. and midnight.

For enhanced security, security staff patrols the parking lot. Lighting was also added for increased security.

The shuttle system is in place until the new parking structure, adjacent to the new court facility, is completed in March, 2002. The courthouse will be completed in 2003.

## New Facilities From Page 1

completion in May 2002, will be available to Juvenile Court as well as nearby Maricopa County Jail facilities. The remainder of the construction is scheduled to be completed in the fall, 2003.

Expansion at the Southeast Juvenile Facility will include 120 beds, as well as support facilities such as classrooms, visitor areas and a dining room. A new Southeast parking garage, already completed, was the first of the jail tax projects to be constructed.

The projects are funded with about \$64 million of a \$900-million jail tax. The projects will reduce chronic overcrowding in both the Durango and Southeast juvenile detention centers, which are consistently over capacity.

"This is a wonderful opportunity and a wonderful physical structure for us to continue working with children and families," Judge

### See Related story on this page

Scott said of the Durango project. "We need a larger building, and a different design."

The construction projects are creating some challenges for court staff and customers. Parking, detention visitation and transfer of juveniles between the courthouse and detention are expected to be the most problematic at the Durango complex.

"It's going to be a real challenge to keep things going operationally," said Ken Bond, assistant director of Juvenile Probation Services. "We'll have to get creative. We'll have to be flexible along the way."

To address the parking issue, a parking area was cleared east of the Maricopa County Towers Jail, and a shuttle bus service is transporting court staff and customers to and from the Juvenile Court Center.



Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Linda Scott (top left) has been busy with the shovel at different groundbreaking ceremonies for new facilities at Durango and Southeast.. (Clockwise from top) Judge Scott shows a picture of her and several others at the groundbreaking of the Southeast Juvenile Court facility in 1989; Superior Court Presiding Judge Colin F. Campbell expressed his delight at the start of the new facilities. County and Court officials break ground at the detention expansion project at the Southeast Facility in Mesa; A 48-bed residential treatment facility is part of the new construction at the Durango facility.

# School violence program wide in scope

## \$500,000 federal grant funds SAFETY in schools for 2 years

Armed with a \$500,000 federal grant to prevent school violence, the Juvenile Probation Department will spend the next two years helping Maricopa County find SAFETY on school campuses.

Juvenile Probation Project Manager Margaret Daggett said the ultimate purpose of the violence prevention and outreach program named SAFETY – Schools Are For Education noT worry – is to have a wide range of experts agree on a solution to school violence and show how school violence spreads into the community.

“One goal is developing more community response to issues so we are not simply relying on professionals to solve the problems,” Daggett said. “It’s got to be dealt with at home, in the neighborhood, at the Jack-in-the-

Box. We all have a stake in dealing with the issues before they result in violence.”

Already underway, Daggett said the program has two approaches. One approach features events such as a recent two-day symposium aimed at exposing schools to a variety of prevention philosophies, as well as workshops geared toward helping schools identify their needs and solutions. The grant covers three workshops and one symposium a year, over the two-year grant period.

A recent symposium featured local, state and national experts who met with school professionals, law enforcement officials, mental health practitioners and concerned citizens to exchange information on violence prevention and intervention.

The second approach

of the grant is to include the community in finding solutions to prevent school violence. Public Service Announcements in print, TV and radio media will be the main focus of this approach.

Daggett said she hopes to expose various stakeholders in the community to a wide range of approaches and disciplines to school violence.

“For law enforcement, the question is ‘is the behavior a crime? For mental health, ‘does the behavior signify mental health problems.’ For teachers, ‘does the behavior interrupt teaching and learning,’” Daggett said. “Our question is how do we get everybody to see the whole continuum of disciplines and leave behind the limitations of their own disciplines and get on board as a community members to help out?”

In January, a workshop will help schools identify their vulnerabilities and what programs are in place to solve the problems. Daggett says later workshops may include crisis response, the difference between normal and abnormal adolescent development and improving school-parent relations.

The community outreach portion of the grant, consisting mainly of videos and Public Service Announcements on radio and television, will focus on heightening awareness of school violence issues, and how they affect the community, Daggett said, adding her ultimate goal is getting the community involved in finding solutions.

“We want to spread awareness of ownership for this as a problem,” She said. “Violence on campus is an issue because it signals violence in the community.”

### New, From Page 2

Judge Stephens focused primarily on white-collar crimes during her career with the A.G.

She received her undergraduate degree in criminal justice in 1977 and her law degree in 1980. She earned both degrees from Arizona State University.

“Both judges Sherry Stephens and Andrew Klein bring diverse legal

backgrounds to our court,” Judge Scott said. “Both have demonstrated in their short time with us a keen interest in juvenile issues and a firm commitment to helping the children and families who appear in their courts.”

The three new judges join Judges Alan Kamin and David R. Cole on the list of judges recently assigned to Juvenile

Court since March.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Colin Campbell calls Juvenile Court a key element of the judicial system in Maricopa County.

“Many years ago the bench prioritized the work we do here. The bench voted the most important thing we do, is what we do in Juvenile Court,” he said.

### Leaving, From Page 1

“This State and County are truly fortunate to have each (staff member) working with and for children,” she said.

Judge Albrecht has served as the Superior Court Associate Presiding Judge, the first woman to do so, and as a judge in the special assignment, civil, domestic relations and criminal departments.

Several years ago, she was also the first woman to be named the Maricopa County Bar president.



## Adoption, From Page 1

"I am just glad to have my daughter," said Julie Decker shortly after 3-year-old Brianna became the eighth Decker child, and

third special needs adoption for the Decker family.

As with the first celebration, the event was a collaboration with Juvenile

Court, and others. New to this year's effort were Maricopa County and Board of Supervisors Chairman Jan Brewer, providing assistance in planning and sponsoring Celebrate Adoption 2001.

In just two years, the event has accounted for 108 children being adopted into 80 families on single days. It is anticipated that Juvenile Court will continue to celebrate adoption annually.

**Clockwise from the top:** Families awaiting adoption crowded the fourth floor of the Central Court Building; Tigger was a popular side show for children in attendance; There was plenty to do for kids in the plaza, including face painting and crafts; A TV station interviews an adoptive family; Science experiments were part of the agenda; Commissioner Robert Colosi joins in the fun; Cake was a popular attraction; Patriotism and unity mingled at Celebrate Adoption 2001; One of many young and bright faces at this year's event.



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# JUVENILE COURT JUDICIAL OFFICERS

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## Southeast Court Center

1810 South Lewis St.

Mesa, AZ 85210

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Presiding Judge Linda K. Scott | 602.506.2610 |
| Judge Silvia R. Arellano       | 602.506.3649 |
| Judge Dennis W. Dairman        | 602.506.1855 |
| Judge Andrew Klein             | 602.506.4645 |
| Judge Emmet J. Ronan           | 602.506.0438 |
| Judge Sherry K. Stephens       | 602.506.4818 |
| Commissioner Thomas Jacobs     | 602.506.4203 |
| Hearing Officer David Arrow    | 602.506.2040 |

## Durango Court Center

3125 West Durango

Phoenix, AZ 85009

|                                        |              |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Associate Presiding Judge Janet Barton | 602.506.5340 |
| Judge Thomas Dunevant III              | 602.506.2050 |
| Judge David R. Cole                    | 602.506.5808 |
| Judge Brian R. Hauser                  | 602.506.6086 |
| Judge Alan S. Kamin                    | 602.506.3157 |
| Judge Teresa A. Sanders                | 602.506.4791 |
| Judge William P. Sargeant III          | 602.506.3663 |
| Commissioner Robert Colosi             | 602.506.3366 |
| Commissioner George H. Foster Jr.      | 602.506.3892 |

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